

In the claims:

Please amend claims 42, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 57, 58, 59, 60, 63, 65, 67, 68, 69, 71, 72, 73, 76, 77, 78 and 79. Please cancel claims 43, 55, and 56. Please add claim 80.

Claims 1-38 (Canceled)

Claim 39 (Withdrawn) A gutter-cover system for spacing a wall of a gutter from a gutter cover comprising:

a solid sheet having one longitudinal edge thereof formed into a curl and wherein the cover extends downwardly and outwardly from the lowermost edge of a roof so that said curl extends downwardly toward said gutter;

a gutter-cover clip having a substantially flat body portion of a given thickness D; said body portion comprising a throat portion having first and second jaws thereof and shaped so that said throat portion is adapted to engage said curl of said cover;

said body portion further including a vertical gutter-engaging portion for engaging a vertical wall of a gutter and spaced from said throat portion by a given distance for maintaining a desired spacing between said wall of said gutter and said cover; and,

a vertical, apertured tab extending generally perpendicularly from said vertical, gutter-engaging portion and adapted to be affixed to said vertical wall of said gutter by a fastener.

Claim 40 (Withdrawn) The gutter-cover system of claim 39 wherein said given thickness is between about 0.09 and 0.250 inches.

Claim 41 (Withdrawn) The gutter-cover system of claim 40 wherein said given thickness is about 0.10 inch.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended) A gutter-cover system for spacing a wall of a gutter from a gutter cover comprising:

a cover, said cover comprising a solid sheet having one longitudinal edge thereof formed into a curl and wherein the cover extends downwardly and outwardly from the lowermost edge of a roof so that said curl extends downwardly toward said gutter;

a gutter-cover clip having a substantially flat body portion of a given thickness (D); said body portion providing a first planar side, a second planar side, and an outer edge whereby the clip resides in a single plane; said body portion comprising a first throat portion having first and second jaws thereof and shaped so that said first throat portion is adapted to engage said curl of said cover, said curl of said cover selectively received by said first throat portion;

third and fourth jaws and a second throat located therebetween, said second throat being adapted to engage said wall of said gutter between said third and fourth jaws; [[and,]]

at least a first locking lever adjacent said third jaw and joined to said body portion by a hinge, said first locking lever being adapted to be bent at said hinge to bring said third jaw into a locking position against said gutter; and a bending slot in said body portion, said bending slot being located above said second throat so that said hinge is between said second throat and said bending slot, said hinge having a width (D3), whereby a force applied to said bending slot moves said locking lever about said hinge so that said third jaw is brought into locking engagement with said wall of said gutter.

Claim 43 (Cancelled)

Claim 44 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim [[43]] 42 wherein the width of said hinge (D3) is between about 1/16 inch and 7/64 inch.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented) The gutter-cover system of claim 44 wherein the width (D3) is preferably about 3/32 inch.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 44 wherein the ratio of the hinge width (D3) to the thickness (D) of said body portion is about 0.25 and 1.2 [[inch]].

Claim 47 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 46 wherein the ratio of hinge width (D3) to the thickness (D) is preferably about 0.94 [[inch]].

Claim 48 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim [[43]] 42 including a locking slot for accommodating a locking-unlocking tool for selectively pivoting said locking lever about said hinge and into a lock or unlocked position.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim [[43]] 42 including a recess in said third jaw for accommodating an unlocking tool for pivoting said locking lever about said hinge to move said third jaw out of engagement with said gutter.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented) The gutter-cover system of claim 42 wherein at least one of said jaws is serrated.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented) The gutter-cover system of claim 42 including fifth and sixth jaws and a second locking lever adjacent said fifth jaw and joined to said body portion by a second hinge, said second locking lever being adapted to be bent at said second hinge to bring said fifth jaw into a locking position against a vertical wall of said gutter.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 51 including a third throat portion between said fifth and sixth jaws and wherein ~~the shortest a~~ distance (D4) is the shortest line between said first throat and said third throat is between about 1/8 and 7/16 inch.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 52 wherein the distance (D4) is ~~preferably~~ about 5/16 inch.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented) The gutter-cover system of claim 42 wherein at least one of said third or fourth jaws is serrated.

Claim 55 (Cancelled)

Claim 56 (Cancelled)

Claim 57 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 42 including a third throat and wherein a second hinge having a width (D2) is formed between said third throat and said third jaw, said second hinge and wherein the width (D2) of said second hinge is between about 1/16 inch and 5/32 inch.

Claim 58 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 57 wherein the width (D2) is ~~preferably~~ about 3/32 inch.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 57 wherein the ratio of the hinge-width (D2) to the thickness (D) of said body portion is between about 0.25 and 1.2 [[inch]].

Claim 60 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 59 wherein the ratio of the width (D2) to the thickness (D) is preferably about 0.94 [[inch]].

Claim 61 (Previously Presented) The gutter-cover system of claim 42 wherein said body portion is comprised of a bendable metal.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented) The gutter-cover system of claim 42 wherein the deepest part of said first throat and the deepest part of said second throat lie essentially in a common plane.

Claim 63 (Currently Amended) A gutter-cover system for spacing a wall of a gutter from a gutter cover comprising:

a cover, said cover comprising a solid sheet having one longitudinal edge thereof formed into a curl and wherein the cover extends downwardly and outwardly from the lowermost edge of a roof so that said curl extends downwardly toward said gutter, said gutter-cover clip having a substantially flat body portion of a given thickness (D); said body portion providing a first

planar side, a second planar side, and an outer edge whereby the clip resides in a single plane; said body portion comprising a first throat portion having first and second jaws thereof and shaped so that said first throat portion is adapted to engage said curl of said cover, said curl of said cover selectively received by said first throat portion;

third and fourth jaws and a second throat located therebetween, said second throat being adapted to engage said wall of said gutter between said third and fourth jaws;

at least a first locking lever adjacent said third jaw and joined to said body portion by a first hinge, said first locking lever being adapted to be bent at said first hinge to bring said third jaw into a locking position against said gutter;

a bending slot in said body portion located above said second throat and wherein the ratio of the distance between said first throat and said bending slot to the thickness of said hinge is between about 1.1 and 2.0.

Claim 64 (Withdrawn) A gutter-cover clip for spacing a wall of a gutter from a gutter cover of the type in which a solid sheet has one longitudinal edge thereof formed into a curl and wherein the cover extends downwardly and outwardly from the lowermost edge of a roof so that said curl extends downwardly toward said gutter, said gutter-cover clip comprising:

as substantially flat body portion of a given thickness D; said body portion for engaging a vertical wall of a gutter and spaced from said throat

portion by a given distance for maintaining a desired spacing between said wall of said gutter and said cover; and, a vertical, apertured tab extending generally perpendicularly from said vertical, gutter-engaging portion and adapted to be affixed to said vertical wall of said gutter by a fastener.

Claim 65 (Currently Amended) A gutter-cover clip for spacing a wall of a gutter from a gutter cover of the type in which a cover comprises a solid sheet has one longitudinal edge thereof formed into a curl and wherein the cover extends downwardly and outwardly from the lowermost edge of a roof so that said curl extends downwardly toward said gutter, said gutter-cover clip comprising:

a substantially flat body portion of a given thickness (D); said body portion providing a first planar side, a second planar side, and an outer edge whereby the clip resides in a single plane; said body portion comprising a first throat portion having first and second jaws thereof and shaped so that said first throat portion is adapted to engage said curl of said cover;

third and fourth jaws and a second throat located therebetween, said second throat being adapted to engage said wall of said gutter between said third and fourth jaws; [[and,]]

at least a first locking lever adjacent said third jaw and joined to said body portion by a hinge, said first locking lever being adapted to be bent at said hinge to bring said third jaw into a locking position against said gutter; and



a bending slot in said body portion, said bending slot being located above said second throat so that said hinge is between said second throat and said bending slot, said hinge having a width (D3), whereby a force applied to said bending slot moves said locking lever about said hinge so that said third jaw is brought into locking engagement with said wall of said gutter.

Claim 66 (Previously Presented) A gutter-cover clip for spacing a wall of a gutter from a gutter cover of the type in which a cover comprises a solid sheet has one longitudinal edge thereof formed into a curl and wherein the cover extends downwardly and outwardly from the lowermost edge of a roof so that said curl extends downwardly toward said gutter, said gutter-cover clip comprising:

a substantially flat body portion of a given thickness (D); said body portion providing a first planar side, a second planar side, and an outer edge whereby the clip resides in a single plane; said body portion comprising a first throat portion having first and second jaws thereof and shaped so that said first throat portion is adapted to engage said curl of said cover;

third and fourth jaws and a second throat located therebetween, said second throat being adapted to engage said wall of said gutter between said third and fourth jaws;

at least a first locking lever adjacent said third jaw and joined to said body portion by a first hinge, said first locking lever being adapted to be bent at

said first hinge to bring said third jaw into a locking position against said gutter;

a bending slot in said body portion located above said second throat and wherein the ratio of the distance between said first throat and said bending slot to the thickness of said hinge is between about 1.1 and 2.0;

fifth and sixth jaws and a third throat located therebetween, said third throat being adapted to engage a vertical wall of said gutter between said fifth and sixth jaws; and

a second locking lever formed between said fourth and fifth jaws and joined to said body portion by a second hinge, said second locking lever being adapted to be rotated so that said vertical wall of said gutter is engaged between said fifth and sixth jaws.

Claim 67 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 63 wherein said ratio of the distance between said first throat and said bending slot to the thickness of said hinge is ~~preferably~~ about 1.5.

Claim 68 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 63 wherein the ratio of ~~[[the]]~~ a hinge width (D2) to the thickness (D) of the body portion is between 0.25 and 1.2.

Claim 69 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 68 wherein the ratio of the width of said first hinge to the thickness (D) is preferably about 0.94.

Claim 70 (Previously Presented) The gutter-cover system of claim 63 including fifth and sixth jaws and a third throat located therebetween, said third throat being adapted to engage a vertical wall of said gutter between said fifth and sixth jaws;

a second locking lever formed between said fourth and fifth jaws and joined to said body portion by a second hinge, said second locking lever being adapted to be rotated so that said vertical wall of said gutter is engaged between said fifth and sixth jaws.

Claim 71 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 70 wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a width (D7) of said second hinge is preferably about 11/128 inch.

Claim 72 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 70 wherein the ratio of a distance (D8) between the first and second throats is ~~(D8)~~ and the to a width (D7) of said second hinge is ~~(D7)~~ and the ratio of ~~(D8)~~ to ~~(D7)~~ is between about 1.1 and 2.0.

Claim 73 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 72 wherein said ratio of the distance (D8) to the width (D7) is preferably about 1.5.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented) The gutter-cover system of claim 63 wherein the width of said first hinge is between about 1/16 and 3/32 inch.

Claim 75 (Previously Presented) The gutter-cover system of claim 63 wherein the bending slot in the body portion above said second throat is located so that said first hinge is between said second throat and said bending slot and wherein a width (D6) is the shortest distance between said first throat and said bending slot and such that said third jaw clamps onto said wall of said gutter upon insertion and rotation of a bending tool in said bending slot.

Claim 76 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 75 wherein the width (D6) is preferably about 15/128 inch.

Claim 77 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 75 wherein the ratio of the width (D6) to ~~[[the]]~~ a width (D5) is between about 1.1 and 2.0.

Claim 78 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 77 wherein the ~~ration~~ ratio of the width (D6) ~~[[/]]~~ to the width (D5) is preferably about 1.5.

Claim 79 (Currently Amended) The gutter-cover system of claim 63 wherein [[the]] a distance (D8) between said first throat and said second throat is preferably about 19/128 inch.

Claim 80 (New) A gutter-cover system for spacing a vertical wall of a gutter from a gutter cover comprising:

a cover, said cover comprising a solid sheet having one longitudinal edge thereof formed into a curl and wherein the cover extends downwardly and outwardly from the lowermost edge of a roof so that said curl extends downwardly toward said gutter;

a gutter-cover clip having a substantially flat body portion of a given thickness (D); said body portion providing a first planar side, a second planar side, and an outer edge whereby the clip resides in a single plane; said body portion comprising a first throat portion having first and second jaws thereof and shaped so that said first throat portion is adapted to engage said curl of said cover, said curl of said cover selectively received by said first throat portion;

third and fourth jaws and a second throat located therebetween, said second throat being adapted to engage said vertical wall of said gutter between said third and fourth jaws wherein said third and fourth jaws are essentially parallel to said vertical wall of said gutter;

at least a first locking lever adjacent said third jaw and joined to said

body portion by a hinge, said first locking lever being adapted to be bent at said hinge to bring said third jaw into a locking position against said gutter; and

a bending slot in said body portion located adjacent said third jaw so that said hinge is between said third jaw and said bending slot whereby a force applied to said bending slot moves said locking lever about said hinge so that said third jaw is brought into locking engagement with said vertical wall of said gutter.